

THE VOICE OF THE PULPIT

THE GREAT FLOOD: ITS IMPRESSIVE LESSONS AND REVELATIONS.

By the Rev. Elmer E. Helms, D. D.,
Pastor of Central Park Methodist
Church, Buffalo, N. Y.

Text: "The same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the floodgates of heaven were opened."—Genesis vii, 11.

One of the six great electric, scenic productions shown at the Pan-American is a reproduction of the Johnstown flood, so realistic that it is impossible for many people to believe they are not witnessing the awful tragedy of that awful day, rather than simply a scenic production.

As the curtain rises and there nestles before you in the lap of the valley Johnstown, the iron queen, nothing can be more beautiful. Mountain slope and deep precipice are robed in darkest green. Burging hemlock and spruce cling to the steep hillsides. Slipping away up the valley are open fields, verdant with grass and grain. Violets here and there purple the forest floor. Cornucopia and Stony creeps foam and tumble into one, and then roll on into the Ohio. Mountainside and golf, singing and leaping as they roll. Up and down the valleys lie the bustling, busy iron villages—ten in number. In the lap of this everlasting green nestles Johnstown like "a gem in a tiara."

Day is full when the curtain lifts. Up and down West mountain the inclined railway climbs with its human freight. The strains of "America" from fife and drum strike your ear, and steel tramp, tramp, the boys in blue are crossing the bridge on their way to the cemetery to scatter flowers on the graves of their dead. It's Decoration day. The busy day draws to a close. The sun is sinking behind the distant hills. The twilight shadows lengthen, night creeps upon you, the candles of the sky are lit and the soft blue light of the moon throws shadows of mountain and hill across the valley. The midnight hour is passing. The light in the window. A sea of flame and sparks and lava pour from a hundred fires in the great Cambria iron works. The red glow of the coke ovens paints all the southern sky. Then, as the lights of the cottages flicker out, the town strikes the deep, solemn peal of the midnight hour. The midnight express from Pittsburgh rushes in with ringing bell and screaming whistle. The silence of the third watch rests upon sleeping Johnstown, innocent of the awful to-morrow. One by one the stars die, the blush of dawn o'erspreads the eastern sky, daylight creeps up creek and valley.

COMING OF DISASTER.
Day with its noise and hush and trade reigns once more. But clouds hang low. Thunder mutter ever and anon. Here and there lightning, now growing fiercer, cuts its forked way. Raindrops fall big and threatening. Like a bolt from heaven there comes that never-to-be-forgotten, deadly, sickening thud, and the cry that makes one's heart stand still, "My God, the dam has burst!" The terrible catastrophe is retold so true to nature that hundreds have felt themselves gasping before the awful scene. The crashing homes, the railroad trains and bridges and rocks with thousands of human souls piled into one awful dam against the great bridge. The horror of darkness and leaping flame that licks up hundreds of pleading, praying men and women. All this, too horrible for sight, when like magic out of the darkness and the storm stands that new Johnstown, Johnstown of to-day, greater, grander, "a symbol of American greatness, a witness to American love, an object lesson of American enterprise," while there arches over her God's beautiful rainbow of promise and hope. So much for the great scenic production at the Pan-American.

Like the inhabitants of Pompeii, the 20,000 people of Johnstown, used to the threatening mutterings of the South Forks dam—a veritable lake over four miles long, fourteen miles up the valley, hundreds of feet above the town, with 15,000,000 tons of water—heeded not the ominous warnings that for days preceded that terrible May 31, 1889. "Because destruction cometh not speedily," saith the Lord, my people forget." The same day of the week and the same hour of the day that our beloved President was struck down by the bullet of an incarnate demon, the pent-up waters of the dam, with insane fury against the already honey-combed breastworks; like fragile gates they parted and with a wild roar, and rush and scream, at the speed of an Empire Express, leaping literally hundreds of feet into the air, they tore down the valley. It was like the bursting of the gates of the Inferno. Factories and great buildings and iron bridges were like children's blocks before it. Engines, trees, railroad trains were snapped and twisted like straw. A hundred thousand tons of rock were hurled before it like marbles. Five thousand people were quickly crushed or pinned in the awful mass at the great bridge, where as the fire slowly consumed them, their shrieks and cries drove strong men mad.

THE FLOOD'S REVELATION.

The Johnstown flood revealed as never before in the history of the race that humanity has a heart; that all the world is kin. The flood of waters had not yet begun to dry in the streets before the flood of charity poured in. Not a city or town or newspaper failed to do its noblest best. Sixteen foreign countries—poverty-stricken Ireland, ignorant Italy, bloody Turkey, uncivilized Persia, sent hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even asylums and almshouses and orphanages forwarded their mites. Most surprising of all, the convicts of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, from the mere pittance that was possible for them to save by working overtime, sent \$5.42 each—the largest per capita average from any spot on the globe. Ah, there is hope for the race. Humanity has a heart. The Anarchist that struck down the President is not a representative of the American race, nor the human race. The human race has a heart.

While the Johnstown flood was appalling, yet it is not the only terrible flood in the history of the world. What an awful flood that was in 1872, 1877, 1892, a deluge financial. What floods of domestic infidelity have swept down thousands of homes. What floods of crime and sin and degradation. Floods, floods.

But there have been other great floods of water. In the year 684 the great Japan flood deluged 700 square miles. In 1219 the flood of Norway swamped 30,000 lives. In 1421 the flood in Holland wiped out of existence seventy-two towns and 100,000 people. In 1612 300,000 souls were drowned in the great flood of China. But the greatest flood of all time is recorded in our text, when "the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the flood gates of heaven were opened." And have they a close relative sort of fish that has eyes?—B. G. M.

No; eyes exist in a rudimentary form and are hidden beneath the skin. 2. Yes; the "Cholagogue," of the swampy regions in and to the south of Virginia, and with well-developed eyes, is thought to be the type from which the others came.

Please give me some information concerning Amelia Barr.—F. E. J.
Amelia Barr was born in Lancashire, England, March 23, 1831; was educated in Glasgow, Scotland, married Robert Barr in 1859 and came to the United States, settling in Galveston, Tex. There her husband and three sons died from yellow fever; with three daughters she removed to New York in 1869 and began to write for the Christian Union and other papers. She has written thirty novels in all. "A Bow at the

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Will you give the origin and date of Halloween?—B. S.
It is the night of Oct. 31—the eve of All Saints' or All Hallows' day—yet has nothing churchly about it, and seems to be a pagan relic or perhaps a remnant of medieval superstitions. Some writers decide that it is related to the German "Walpurgis Night," a witch festival of the eve of May 1, the date when Halloween used to come in the old days.

Does heat expand or contract wood? 2. Is ice a contracted or expanded form of water? Why does the ice float?—Zeno.
Expands it—more across the grain than with the grain. 2. An expanded form. Water contracts slowly with lowering temperature until at about the freezing point it expands suddenly. So ice, contrary to the usual rule, contracts in melting. 1,000 volumes of ice becoming 917 volumes of water. Thus, too, ice is the lighter and floats.

I read that an attempt on the life of Andrew Jackson occurred Jan. 30, 1835; by whom and where was the attempt made?—V. A. S.
The assailant was a crazy English house painter named Lawrence. He tried to fire at President Jackson as the latter crossed the rotunda of the Capitol at the head of the funeral procession of a South Carolina congressman. The powder in his pistols failed to explode, and the lunatic was put in an asylum.

Where can I get a sketch of the life of Frances Hodgson Burnett?—Mrs. N. R. R.
Here is a brief one: Frances Eliza Hodgson was born at Manchester, England, Nov. 24, 1849. She moved to Knoxville, Tenn., in 1855. Two years later she began writing for the magazines. In 1873 she married Dr. L. M. Burnett, in 1875 she settled in Washington and in 1877 her first successful novel was brought out. In 1888 she obtained a divorce and last year married Stephen Townsend, an English author.

Is there a genealogist in Indianapolis who can assist a person in looking up that visionary ancestor? If so, who is he? 2. Who are the secretaries of the Sons of the Revolution and the Society of Colonial Wars in Indiana?—A. H.
A number of persons in the city are engaged in such investigations for themselves and their family connections, but we know of no one who has taken up the work professionally. The secretary of the Sons of the Revolution is William Allen Wood, Indianapolis. There is no Society of Colonial Wars in Indiana.

Is it lawful for United States banks to charge interest on interest? For instance, I borrowed \$100 at 8 per cent, with interest counted in, for six months, which amounts to \$16. When the time came to pay off the amount there was 64 cents added.—Z.
It is the custom of banks to collect interest in advance. In that case your note would be for \$116, but you would receive only \$100. As you did not pay until the note was due the bank lost the use of the \$16, and therefore charged you interest on it for the six months, which would amount to 64 cents. This is not an illegal proceeding.

Who served in President Cleveland's Cabinet, and especially where were the members?—N. N.
His first term's Cabinet included Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; Daniel Manning,

What was the population of Greater New York?—G.
By last year's census, 3,437,202.

Where is Company F, Twenty-third Infantry?—H. T. W.
On the way to New York from Manila.

Is black a color?—Greenville.
Strictly it is not. As the word is used commonly it is the darkest of colors.

What was the population of Ohio, Massachusetts and Iowa by the last census?—C. R.
In your order, 4,157,545, 2,805,246 and 2,231,152.

Will you please inform me who is the United States consul at the City of Mexico?—A. P.
Andrew D. Barlow is our consul general there.

What does the abbreviation K. C. V. O. mean? I see it used in connection with the name of Sir Thomas Lipton.—G. E. W.
Knight Commander of the Victorian Order.

Who were the Struldbruggs, and can you give me the name of the book that treats of them?
They were a certain wretched folk described in "Gulliver's Travels."

What are the populations of Oklahoma City and McAlester? 2. Where is Company C, Sixteenth Infantry?—A. O.
By last year's census, 10,637 and 616, respectively. 2. In the Philippines; address at Manila.

What is the new name of what used to be called Sing Sing Prison?—E. A. V.
The name of the prison is unchanged. The town's name was changed. The Osonising, in order to have its name different from the prison's.

Will you kindly give me the total vote of Indianapolis at the last presidential campaign?—A. Reader.
Last Tuesday the total vote was 41,834; at the presidential election last November the total vote was 45,555.

If a man has a house built by contract and the contractor gets the amount of the contract and refuses to pay the men, can his men take a lien on the property for their pay?—A. W. H.
Yes; under the law of Indiana such liens are preferred claims.

What will take mildew out of domestic?—P. S.
In white goods, moisten the spots repeatedly with well diluted javella water, being sure to rub the fabric thoroughly before long, finally washing in strong warm soap suds. Soak colored goods twenty-four hours in sour milk or buttermilk, rinse and wash in strong suds.

What is the harvest moon?—Ruled.
The full moon of the lunation coming at about the time of the autumnal equinox. Its peculiarity is that for the few days before and after its full the moon rises at nearly the same hour. This is especially noticeable in arctic regions, and decreases southward, disappearing altogether at the equator.

Will you print a comparison of the sizes of the Great Eastern and the largest vessel now in use?—Enquirer.
Great Eastern, length 689 feet, breadth 82.5, depth 58, gross tonnage 18,915; Celtic, length 680.9, breadth 75, depth 41.1, tonnage 30,389. The latter specification is the one for fair comparison of size. The Celtic is a longer boat than either of these, being 705 feet, but falls behind both in tonnage.

Are the fish of subterranean water, such as those of the Mammoth cave, absolutely without eyes? 2. And have they a close relative sort of fish that has eyes?—B. G. M.
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New York; William C. Endicott, Massachusetts; William C. Whitney, New York; William F. Vilas, Wisconsin; Augustus H. Garland, Arkansas; L. Q. C. Lamar, Mississippi; Charles F. Fairchild, of New York, and Don M. Dickerson, of Michigan, entered the Cabinet later. The second term's Cabinet took in Walter Q. Gresham, of Illinois; John G. Carlisle, Kentucky; Daniel S. Lamont, New York; Hilary A. Herbert, Alabama; Wilson B. Bissell, New York; Richard Olney, Massachusetts, followed by Judson Harmon, of Ohio; Hoke Smith, Georgia, and David R. Francis, Missouri.

Will you tell me something about time? 2. And about Roget's "Thesaurus"? 2. Why is Ernest Seton called Seton-Thompson?—F. F. F.
It is the protoxide of calcium and the basis of limestones, marbles, shells and corals, where it is combined with carbonic acid. Heat drives off the acid, leaving the caustic or quicklime of commerce, and the addition of water slakes it. For mortar, in which is the greatest consumption of lime, sand is added. Any encyclopedia will give you more of this topic. 2. It is a work first published in 1852 and a classification and arrangement of English words and phrases according to their meanings, not in alphabetical order. 3. He added the Thompson as a pseudonym.

Why and when was New York city called Gotham? 2. What became of Lord Scott and family?—W. E.
The origin of the name "Gotham," as applied to the city of New York, is contained in a humorous book called "Salmagundi," written by Washington Irving, his brother William and James K. Paulding, and is used to signify that the inhabitants were given to undue pretensions to wisdom. This definition is taken from a story regarding the inhabitants of Gotham, a parish in Nottinghamshire, England, who were as reasonable for their stupidity as for their conceit. 2. Scott, with his family, was set free in St. Louis in 1857, after which time he seems to have passed into obscurity, no further mention being made of him in any biographical sketches to which the Journal has access. His portrait, probably the only one in existence, is in possession of the Missouri Historical Society, and that body may have information as to his later career.

Which country used the center-board boat first in the races for the cup and the defender, America or England? 2. Do both countries use the keel boat now? 3. Have any of the cup defenders, after successfully defending the cup, gone over to England and been badly beaten and had numerous mishaps? If so, was not the name of the boat the Genesta—James Gordon Bennett's boat—about ten years ago?—Yacht.
The United States was the first and only country to use the center board in connection with the cup races. England always used the keel boat. Its earlier challengers being "cutters" built in which the body of the boat was carried down in a long taper to the keel. 2. Recent contestants, both challenger and defenders, have been so-called "fin-keel" models, a modification of the center board idea—in short, a deep and stationary center board on the bottom of an otherwise shallow-draft boat. 3. We do not recall such an incident. The Genesta was an English boat and was beaten by the Puritan. What its record was after returning to England we do not know.

If you love your wife, make it easy for her to get breakfast. Take home Mrs. Austin's Pan-Cake Flour.

Union Station Barber Shop
Conducted upon
STRICTLY SCIENTIFIC SANITARY PRINCIPLES.
Every tool used by the barber, and all towels and linen, are
ANTISEPTICALLY TREATED.
Each customer is served with an entirely clean, fresh razor, lather cup and brush, hair brush and comb, and clean towels, which have all been subjected to our
STERILIZING PROCESS.
Try our face massage for the removal of tan, freckles, "blackheads," etc. Open all night.
J. H. WELLS, Union Station Barber Shop.

WE DO
Columbia
Mantles and
Lamps
THE
BEST
Lamp on the
Market
High-
Class
Plumb-
ing.
Groves & Betz
245 Mass. Ave.

Armstrong Laundry
The Sunday Journal, by Mail, \$2 Per Annum

Stoves
We are prepared to show the most complete assortment
"Jewel" Base Burners
"Jewel" Steel Ranges
Malleable Ranges
CASH OR PAYMENTS
LOWEST PRICES
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